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#### THE AMERICAN RING CO.

THE tendency in style in furniture during the last few years has done much to further the interests and develop the industry of cabinet brass-work. Although the market may be crowded to repletion with unlimited variety in style, the demand for something fresh ever remains. Such, indeed, seems to be the only means to keep things moving. The constant production of novelty is the task of those who desire to retain a public reputation, and it requires no small effort to keep this ever-changing system going.

The use of such artistic goods is rapidly broadening, and the freedom and novelty of the designs keep pace with their widespread use.

The new line of metal furnishings produced for next spring's trade by the American Ring Co. has already made its appearance, and covers everything made in the line of brass trimmings.

One of the most novel ideas is a drawer pull containing a hand-painted porcelain plaque, that will prove a desirable variation of the all-brass designs. The firm produces everything in brass pertaining to furniture decoration, such as desk handles, escutcheons, hat pins, mirror pins, cabinet hangers, table feet, desk rails, ornaments, mouldings, hinge plates, etc. All work is highly finished, being gold plated and finely chased by hand. It manufactures a large variety of trimmings for brass and iron bedsteads, including solid brass mounts and brass tubing. So many and varied are the styles in fashion at the present day that a special education in the characteristics of decorative metal-work is almost an essential qualification to the modern cabinet maker.

#### THE TIFFANY CHAPEL.

THE famous Tiffany Chapel will re-open at 333 Fourth Avenue, Tuesday, September 4th, and remain on exhibition daily from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. until December 1st. Cards of admission may be obtained at the office of the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company, 333 Fourth Avenue, New York.

#### THE ARCHITECTS' DIRECTORY FOR 1894.

THIS valuable reference book to the architectural profession has just appeared from the press of Wm. T. Comstock. It is put up in convenient shape and bound in red boards with gilt stamp, making quite a striking appearance. The work bears marks of very careful preparation, and aims to give, classified by States and towns, all the architects in practice in the United States and Canada. In giving architects' names the membership in the architectural societies is indicated by figures in brackets following each name; (1) indicating membership in the American Institute of Architects; (2) the Architectural League of New York; (35) Royal Canadian Academician. This will be found a valuable feature, not only interesting to architects, but to those following up the work of associated architects. The influence of architectural association in raising the standard of architecture in this country is well known, and this feature of the Directory will be regarded important.

A selected list of the principal dealers in building materials and appliances is also given, which will be found useful to architects. To manufacturers and dealers the list of architects

will be found of great value in addressing circulars and sending samples.

The work is well got up, clearly printed and of convenient size, and will be found of great value to architects and the building trades. The price is \$1.

#### YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE OF THE Y. M. C. A. OF NEW YORK.

THERE will be special exercises at the Young Men's Institute, 223 Bowery, New York City, Tuesday, October 2, to formally open the Educational Department of the work. There will be music and short addresses in the large hall, and all the class-rooms will be open for inspection of the visitors.

An excellent educational work is being done by the Institute each year. Instruction is given in the following subjects: Steam Engineering, Practical Electricity, Sanitary Plumbing, Carriage Drafting, Mechanical Drawing, Architectural Drawing, Freehand Drawing, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Penmanship, Shorthand, Typewriting, English Grammar and Composition, Vocal Music and Glee Club, and First Aid to the Injured.

The classes are open to all young men between the ages of seventeen and thirty-five years. A distinctive feature of this educational work is that the theory is taught to those who are getting the practical part of the subject in their daily work. Firemen are taught all the theory necessary for becoming engineers. Engineers are prepared to take charge of higher grade engines. Machinists are taught the mechanical drawing which they need in their work, young men in offices are taught the commercial subjects. In this way the efficiency and commercial value of each student is increased for his present employer.

The enrolment for the season '93-'94 was 425 young men. The quality of work done has shown a decided improvement each year.

The school year continues until May, when diplomas and prizes are awarded by the Committee of Management. Admission is free to the opening exercises on October 2.

All interested are invited to attend.

#### TO PREPARE AND APPLY ENAMEL.

Enamel, which on account of its beautiful hard surface is sometimes called porcelain finish, is one of the most desirable agents for the freshening of old or solid furniture. It may be furnished ready, mixed in pint cans, and is obtainable in white, cream and a variety of delicate tints, and also in certain rich shades of terra-cotta, Indian-red and other dark colors, though the light ones greatly predominate. General directions accompany each can and if these are carefully followed, failure will be impossible. In enamelling even more than in varnishing it is necessary to allow each coat to become perfectly dry before applying the next. In fact, unless the maker has sufficient patience to follow this rule literally, she should never attempt to enamel, as in all probability her desire to hasten the work would only result in aggravating disappointment.

The enamel sold in small cans is quite expensive, but a can will cover quite a large surface if the wood is first "sized" with a primary coat of common paint. This provides a smooth, hard surface upon which to apply the enamel, and fewer coats will thus be required to produce a beautiful, glossy finish.

When large surfaces are to be treated and economy must be considered, a very good quality of enamel may be prepared at home, the necessary ingredients being pure zinc-white and varnish, both of the best quality. These must be mixed until the proper consistency has been reached. It is impossible to give the exact quantities, as the varnish often varies in density, calling for more or less zinc-white. When the varnish is very thick and heavy, thin it with a little turpentine, and then add the zinc-white. The latter should be a fine powder and should be sifted through a coarse net to exclude all lumps of gritty particles. Zinc-white already prepared with varnish for making the porcelain finish may be obtained in large cans, and many painters prefer to purchase it in this way, sometimes finding it necessary to thin it by adding a small quantity of turpentine.



THE *Atlantic Monthly* is one of those recondite publications that appeals to the literary, artistic and philosophic minority in the community. There is a certain spirit of sacrifice involved in thus refusing to cater to the tastes of the *hoi polloi*. It is the journal of our intellectual aristocracy. Its circulation may be limited, but its pages are sweet to those who possess a taste for the finer flavors of cotemporary thought. While many of its articles are brilliant, others again are dull and spiritless, suggestive of the library and not of actual life. We always like to read what that poetic writer, Lafcadio Hearn, has to say about his travels. There is a paragraph about the bronze mirrors of Japan in the October issue. He refers to a heap of bronze mirrors at Hakata, contributed by women to be used in casting a gigantic figure of Buddha.

"I cannot feel delighted at this display, which, although gratifying the artistic sense with the promise of a noble statue, shocks it still more by ocular evidence of the immense destruction that the project involves. For Japanese metal mirrors (now being superseded by atrocious cheap looking glasses of Western manufacture) well deserve to be called things of beauty. Nobody unfamiliar with their gracious shapes can know the charm of the Oriental comparison of the moon to a mirror. One side only is polished. The other is adorned with designs in relief: trees or flowers, birds or animals or insects, landscapes, legends, symbols of good fortune, figures of gods. Such are even the commonest mirrors. But there are many kinds; and some among them are very wonderful, which we call 'magic mirrors,' because, when the reflection is thrown upon a screen or wall, you can see, in the disk of light, *luminous images of the designs upon the back.*"

"Whether there be any magic mirrors in that heap of bronze ex-votos I cannot tell; but there certainly are many beautiful things. And there is no little pathos in the spectacle of all that wonderful quaint work thus cast away, and destined soon to vanish utterly. Probably within another decade the making of mirrors of silver